

A Profile of the Working Poor, 2004



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In 2004, 37.0 million people, or 12.7 percent of the population, lived at or below the official poverty threshold, according to the Census Bureau. Although the majority of the Nation's poor were children and adults who had not participated in the labor force during the year, 7.8 million individuals spent 27 weeks or more in the labor force (working or looking for work) and still earned incomes below the official poverty level. These individuals, classified as "working poor," represented 5.6 percent of all persons 16 years and older who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more—a 0.3-percentage-point increase (408,000 persons) from the prior year. (See tables A and 1, and chart 1.) Additional highlights from the 2004 data include:

- Although working full-time (35 or more hours per week) substantially lowers a person's probability of being poor, a majority (58.4 percent) of the working poor usually worked full time. Still, full-time workers were less likely than part-time workers to be considered working poor: in 2004, 3.9 percent of all persons who spent 27 or more weeks in the labor force and usually worked full time were classified as working poor, compared with 11.6 percent of usual part-time workers.

- Black and Hispanic or Latino workers continued to be more than twice as likely as their white counterparts to be among the working poor.

- In general, the risk of being poor falls as individuals attain higher education levels. Of those in the labor force for most of 2004, only 1.7 percent of college graduates were among the working poor, compared with 15.2 percent of those with less than a high school diploma.

- The probability of being among the working poor was lowest for individuals employed in management, professional, and related occupations, and highest for those holding service jobs.

- Among families with at least one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, those including children under 18 years old were about four times as likely as those without children to live in poverty or to be among the working poor.

This report presents data on the relationship between labor force activity and poverty in 2004 for workers and their families. The specific income thresholds used to determine people's poverty status differ, depending on whether the individuals were living with family members or were living alone or with nonrelatives. For family members, the poverty threshold was determined by their family's total income and family size; for individuals not living in families, their personal income was used as the determinant.

The data were collected in the 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey. For a description of the source of the data and an explanation of the concepts and definitions used in this report, see the Technical Note.

Demographic characteristics

Of all persons in the labor force for at least 27 weeks during 2004, about the same number of women and men were poor—4.0 and 3.8 million, respectively. The working-poor rate—the

Table A. Poverty status of persons and primary families in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2001-2004

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2001	2002 ¹	2003 ²	2004
Total persons ³	138,143	139,728	140,007	140,876
In poverty	6,802	7,359	7,429	7,837
Poverty rate	4.9	5.3	5.3	5.6
Unrelated individuals ..	29,387	29,847	29,898	30,373
In poverty	2,388	2,584	2,472	2,720
Poverty rate	8.1	8.7	8.3	9.0
Primary families ⁴	62,251	63,352	63,567	64,063
In poverty	3,697	3,973	4,167	4,279
Poverty rate	5.9	6.3	6.6	6.7

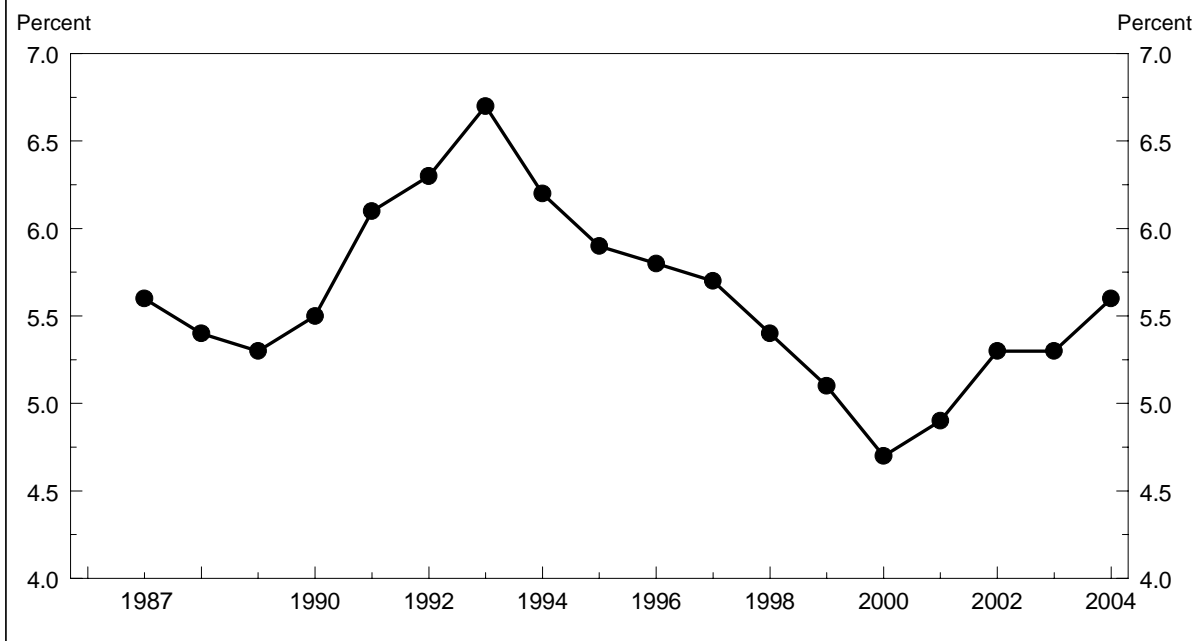
¹ Data, beginning in 2002 with the collection of the 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for earlier years because of the introduction in the January 2003 survey of revised population controls.

² Data, beginning in 2003 with the collection of the 2004 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for earlier years because of the introduction in the January 2004 survey of revised population controls.

³ Includes persons in families, not shown separately.

⁴ Refers to primary families with at least one member in the labor force for more than half the year.

Chart 1. Poverty rate of persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 1987-2004



proportion of persons in the labor force for at least 27 weeks who lived below the poverty level—was 6.2 percent for women, compared with 5.0 percent for men. (See table 2.) The rate for men was slightly higher than in 2003.

As in past years, younger workers were more likely to be among the working poor than were their older counterparts, largely because of young people's lower earnings and higher rates of unemployment. Among youth who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2004, 10.2 percent of 16- to 19-year-olds and 11.6 percent of 20- to 24-year-olds were living in poverty. These rates were at least double the rate for workers aged 35 to 44 (5.1 percent) and more than triple the rate for workers aged 55 to 64 (3.0 percent).

Black and Hispanic teenage workers are particularly likely to be in poverty. Among teenagers who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 19.5 percent of blacks and 15.7 percent of Hispanics were living in poverty, compared with 9.0 percent of whites and 6.7 percent of Asians. (See table 2.)

Educational attainment

Achieving higher levels of education dramatically reduces the likelihood of being among the working poor. Individuals with higher levels of education have greater access to higher paying jobs, such as management, professional, and related occupations, than do those with lower education. In 2004, the working-poor rate for college graduates was 1.7 percent, the lowest by education level. Persons with less than a high school diploma were those most likely to be among the working poor (15.2 percent); having a high school diploma or equivalent, but no college, reduced the working-poor rate to 6.5 percent. Blacks and Hispanics were more likely to be

among the working poor than were whites at all levels of educational attainment. (See table 3.)

At lower levels of educational attainment, white women were slightly more likely to be among the working poor than were white men. There were some marked disparities, however, among black men and women. The working-poor rate for black women workers with less than a high school diploma was 31.6 percent, compared with 17.7 percent for black men. Among high school graduates (no college), the gap was narrower, but the working-poor rate was still higher for black women (14.6 percent) than for black men (9.4 percent). Among college graduates, however, the working-poor rate for black women was below that for black men.

Occupation

The likelihood of being among the working poor varies widely by occupation. In 2004, two-thirds of the working poor who had been employed at some point during the year worked in one of the following three occupational groups: Service occupations; sales and office occupations; and production, transportation, and material moving occupations. (Individuals are classified by occupation based on the job they held the longest during the year.) Those who had worked in occupations requiring higher levels of education and offering higher earnings had a lower incidence of being poor. Management, professional, and related occupations had the lowest working-poor rate—1.9 percent. The proportion of workers classified as working poor was highest for those employed in service occupations; at 11.2 percent, the rate was twice that for all workers. Individuals who had worked in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupa-

tions also had an above-average working-poor rate—7.3 percent. (See table 4.)

Families

In 2004, 4.3 million families were classified as living below the poverty level, despite having at least one family member in the labor force for half the year or more. This number represented 6.7 percent of all families who had at least one member in the labor force in 2004, little changed from 2003. Among families with one member in the labor force for at least 27 weeks in 2004, married-couple families—regardless of whether the husband or the wife was the family member in the labor force—were the least likely to fall below the poverty level (8.8 percent). Families maintained by single women had a working-poor rate of 22.6 percent, and families maintained by single men, 13.2 percent. (See table 5.)

The working-poor rate was higher in families with children than in those without children. Married-couple families with children had a working-poor rate of 5.9 percent; married-couple families without children had a working-poor rate of only 1.8 percent. Families maintained by single women with children under 18 years old had a working-poor rate of 23.2 percent. The working-poor rate for families maintained by single men with children also was high—12.5 percent.

Unrelated individuals

In 2004, 30.4 million unrelated individuals were in the labor force for half the year or longer, and 2.7 million lived below the poverty level. Unrelated individuals are persons who live by themselves or with others not related to them. Their working-poor rate was 9.0 percent in 2004, up from 8.3 percent in 2003. (See tables 6 and A.)

Of the 2.7 million unrelated individuals who lived below the poverty level, roughly 3 in every 5 lived with others. Persons living with unrelated individuals had a working-poor rate of 12.1 percent, compared with 6.2 percent for individuals living alone. Many unrelated individuals with low incomes may live with others out of necessity; if they had sufficient incomes to support themselves, they might choose to live alone. Poverty status for unrelated individuals in either living situation is determined using the individual's resources,

but the pooling of resources and sharing of expenses may permit some unrelated individuals who are technically classified as poor to live above the poverty level.

Among unrelated individuals, teenagers living alone or with others not related to them were those most likely to live below the poverty level: about 2 in every 5 (224,000) were below the poverty level in 2004. Roughly equal numbers of men and women below the poverty level were living alone or with unrelated individuals; however, women living alone or with unrelated individuals had a higher working-poor rate (9.9 percent) than did men (8.2 percent). Working-poor rates for unrelated blacks and unrelated Hispanics were 11.6 and 10.4 percent, respectively, compared with 8.4 percent for unrelated whites. (See table 7.)

Labor market problems

Three major labor market problems commonly experienced by persons in the labor force who live below the poverty level are unemployment, low earnings, and involuntary part-time employment. (See the Technical Note for detailed definitions.) Among those who participated in the labor force for more than half the year and who usually worked in full-time wage and salary jobs, 3.8 million, or 3.5 percent, were classified as working poor in 2004. This proportion was little different from the prior year. This analysis is limited to full-time wage and salary workers. (See table 8.)

In 2004, 8 in 10 of the working poor who usually worked full time in wage and salary jobs experienced at least one labor market problem. Low earnings continued to be the most common problem, reported by two-thirds of workers in this group, either alone or in combination with other labor market problems. Unemployment, either alone or combined with other labor market problems, was experienced by about 3 in 10. Only 3.2 percent experienced all three problems—low earnings, unemployment, and involuntary part-time work.

Some 732,000 of the working poor who usually work full time in wage and salary jobs did not experience any of the three main labor market problems in 2004. Their poverty status may be associated with other factors, including short-term employment, some weeks of *voluntary* part-time work, or a family structure that increases the likelihood of poverty.

Technical Note

Source of data

The primary source of data in this report is the 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly survey of 60,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics to collect demographic, social, and economic information about persons 16 years of age and older. The Annual Social and Economic Supplement is asked of part of the CPS samples for February and April and of the entire sample for March, making up a total of 78,000 households. Work experience and income data collected in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement refer to activity in the entire prior calendar year.

The estimates in this report are based on a sample and, consequently, may differ from figures that would have been obtained from a complete count using the same questionnaire and procedures. Sampling variability may be relatively large in cases where the numbers are small. Thus, small estimates, or small differences between estimates, should be interpreted with caution. For a detailed explanation of the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS, its sampling variability, and more extensive definitions than those provided below, see *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2004*, Current Population Reports, series P-60, no. 229 (U.S. Census Bureau, August 2005). This publication can be downloaded from the U.S. Census Bureau Web site at www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/p60-229.pdf.

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For more information on the data provided in this report, write to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Labor Force Statistics, Room 4675, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE., Washington, DC 20212; e-mail: cpsinfo@bls.gov; or telephone: (202) 691-6378.

Comparability of estimates

The 2004 estimates in this report, which were collected in the 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS, are not strictly comparable with data for 2003 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2005 of revised population controls in the CPS. For additional information, see "Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2005" in the February 2005

issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cps/cps05adj.pdf.

Concepts and definitions

Poverty classification. Poverty statistics presented in this report are based on definitions developed by the Social Security Administration in 1964 and revised by Federal interagency committees in 1969 and 1981. These definitions originally were based on the Department of Agriculture's Economy Food Plan and reflected the different consumption requirements of families, based on factors such as family size and the number of children under 18 years of age.

The actual poverty thresholds vary in accordance with the makeup of the family. In 2004, the average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$19,307; for a family of nine or more persons, the threshold was \$39,048; and for an unrelated individual aged 65 or older, it was \$9,060. Poverty thresholds are updated each year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). The thresholds do not vary geographically. For more information, see *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2004*, cited above.

Low earnings. The low earnings level, as first developed in 1987, represented the average of the real value of the minimum wage between 1967 and 1987 for a 40-hour workweek. The base year of 1967 was chosen because that was the first year in which minimum-wage legislation covered essentially the same broad group of workers that currently is covered. The low earnings level has subsequently been adjusted each year using the CPI-U, so that the measure maintains the same real value that it held in 1987. In 2004, the low earnings threshold was \$278.03 per week. For a more complete definition, see Bruce W. Klein and Philip L. Rones, "A profile of the working poor," *Monthly Labor Review*, October 1989, pp. 3-13.

Income. Data on income are limited to money income received in the calendar year preceding the supplement, before personal income taxes and payroll deductions. They do not include the value of noncash benefits such as Food Stamps, Medicare, Medicaid, public housing, and employer-provided benefits. For a complete definition of the income concept, see *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2004*, cited above.

In the labor force. Persons in the labor force are those who worked or looked for work sometime during the calendar year preceding the supplement. The number of weeks in the labor

force is accumulated over the entire year. The focus in this report is on persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.

Involuntary part-time workers. These are persons who, in at least 1 week of the year, worked fewer than 35 hours because of slack work or business conditions, or because they could not find full-time work. The number of weeks of involuntary part-time work is accumulated over the year.

Occupation. Refers to the occupation in which a person worked the most weeks during the calendar year.

Unemployed. Unemployed persons are those who looked for work while not employed or those who were on layoff from a job and expecting recall. The number of weeks unemployed is accumulated over the entire year.

Family. A family is defined as a group of two or more persons residing together who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. The count of families used in this report includes only primary families. A primary family includes the reference person (householder) and all people living in the household who are related to the reference person. Families are classified either as married-couple families or as those maintained by men or women without spouses present. Family status is determined at the time of the interview, and thus may be different from that of the previous year.

Unrelated individuals. These are persons who are not living with any relatives. Such individuals may live alone, reside in an unrelated family household, or live in group quarters with other unrelated individuals.

Related children. Data on related children refer to own children (including sons, daughters, and step- or adopted children) of the husband, wife, or person maintaining the family and all other children related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Race. White, black or African American, and Asian are terms used to describe the race of people. People in these categories are those who selected only that race group to identify themselves. Data for the remaining race categories—American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander—and for people who selected more than one race category are included in totals but are not shown separately because the number of survey respondents is too small to develop estimates of sufficient quality for publication. In the enumeration process, race is determined by the household respondent.

Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. This term refers to persons who identified themselves in the CPS enumeration process as being Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino. People whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 1. **People in the labor force: Poverty status and work experience by weeks in the labor force, 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and work experience	Total in the labor force	27 weeks or more in the labor force	
		Total	50 to 52 weeks
TOTAL			
Total in labor force	154,785	140,876	127,515
Did not work during the year	2,550	1,244	1,067
Worked during the year	152,235	139,632	126,448
Usual full-time workers	121,651	116,468	108,652
Usual part-time workers	30,585	23,164	17,797
Involuntary part-time workers	5,146	4,222	3,461
Voluntary part-time workers	25,438	18,942	14,336
At or above poverty level			
Total in labor force	144,399	133,039	121,016
Did not work during the year	1,528	668	559
Worked during the year	142,871	132,371	120,457
Usual full-time workers	116,120	111,895	104,755
Usual part-time workers	26,751	20,476	15,702
Involuntary part-time workers	3,824	3,184	2,591
Voluntary part-time workers	22,927	17,293	13,110
Below poverty level			
Total in labor force	10,387	7,837	6,499
Did not work during the year	1,022	575	508
Worked during the year	9,365	7,262	5,992
Usual full-time workers	5,531	4,574	3,897
Usual part-time workers	3,833	2,688	2,095
Involuntary part-time workers	1,322	1,039	870
Voluntary part-time workers	2,511	1,649	1,226
Rate ¹			
Total in labor force	6.7	5.6	5.1
Did not work during the year	40.1	46.3	47.6
Worked during the year	6.2	5.2	4.7
Usual full-time workers	4.5	3.9	3.6
Usual part-time workers	12.5	11.6	11.8
Involuntary part-time workers	25.7	24.6	25.1
Voluntary part-time workers	9.9	8.7	8.5

¹ Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force.

NOTE: Data refer to people 16 years and older. Data for 2004, which were collected in the 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for 2003

and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2005 of revised population controls used in the survey. For additional information, see the Technical Note and the article "Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2005," available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cps/cps05adj.pdf.

Table 2. **People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Age and sex	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Below poverty level				
						Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
Total, 16 years and older	140,876	115,606	15,829	6,070	18,296	7,837	5,613	1,675	266	1,935
16 to 19 years	4,202	3,546	409	102	594	427	318	80	7	93
20 to 24 years	13,327	10,791	1,595	412	2,364	1,552	1,159	279	34	306
25 to 34 years	30,848	24,428	3,961	1,605	5,727	2,233	1,513	578	58	712
35 to 44 years	35,004	28,283	4,205	1,713	4,813	1,775	1,266	384	85	495
45 to 54 years	33,707	28,057	3,632	1,362	3,128	1,194	850	252	53	226
55 to 64 years	18,575	15,931	1,608	723	1,364	550	424	91	20	89
65 years and older	5,214	4,570	419	152	305	106	83	11	10	13
Men, 16 years and older	75,893	63,346	7,407	3,307	11,175	3,801	2,890	626	154	1,157
16 to 19 years	2,065	1,734	208	48	345	187	125	46	2	45
20 to 24 years	7,104	5,852	759	206	1,479	683	520	111	19	171
25 to 34 years	17,205	13,967	1,845	917	3,695	1,071	810	185	27	448
35 to 44 years	19,014	15,660	1,945	964	2,931	878	680	134	52	299
45 to 54 years	17,741	15,004	1,702	690	1,785	638	469	114	35	143
55 to 64 years	9,864	8,546	751	393	774	278	229	35	10	44
65 years and older	2,901	2,583	196	88	166	66	56	2	8	7
Women, 16 years and older	64,983	52,260	8,422	2,763	7,121	4,036	2,723	1,049	112	778
16 to 19 years	2,137	1,812	201	54	249	240	192	34	5	48
20 to 24 years	6,223	4,938	836	206	886	869	639	168	14	135
25 to 34 years	13,643	10,461	2,116	688	2,033	1,162	702	393	31	264
35 to 44 years	15,990	12,624	2,260	749	1,882	897	586	250	33	196
45 to 54 years	15,966	13,052	1,931	672	1,343	556	381	138	18	84
55 to 64 years	8,711	7,385	857	330	590	272	194	56	10	45
65 years and older	2,314	1,987	222	64	139	40	27	10	2	6

Age and sex	Rate ¹				
	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
Total, 16 years and older	5.6	4.9	10.6	4.4	10.6
16 to 19 years	10.2	9.0	19.5	6.7	15.7
20 to 24 years	11.6	10.7	17.5	8.2	13.0
25 to 34 years	7.2	6.2	14.6	3.6	12.4
35 to 44 years	5.1	4.5	9.1	4.9	10.3
45 to 54 years	3.5	3.0	6.9	3.9	7.2
55 to 64 years	3.0	2.7	5.6	2.8	6.5
65 years and older	2.0	1.8	2.7	6.4	4.3
Men, 16 years and older	5.0	4.6	8.5	4.7	10.4
16 to 19 years	9.1	7.2	22.2	(²)	13.0
20 to 24 years	9.6	8.9	14.6	9.4	11.6
25 to 34 years	6.2	5.8	10.0	3.0	12.1
35 to 44 years	4.6	4.3	6.9	5.4	10.2
45 to 54 years	3.6	3.1	6.7	5.1	8.0
55 to 64 years	2.8	2.7	4.7	2.6	5.7
65 years and older	2.3	2.2	0.8	8.7	4.1
Women, 16 years and older	6.2	5.2	12.5	4.1	10.9
16 to 19 years	11.2	10.6	16.7	(²)	19.3
20 to 24 years	14.0	12.9	20.1	7.0	15.3
25 to 34 years	8.5	6.7	18.6	4.5	13.0
35 to 44 years	5.6	4.6	11.1	4.4	10.4
45 to 54 years	3.5	2.9	7.2	2.7	6.2
55 to 64 years	3.1	2.6	6.5	2.9	7.6
65 years and older	1.7	1.3	4.4	(²)	4.5

¹ Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.

² Data not shown where base is less than 80,000.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African

American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. In addition, people whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Also, see Note, table 1.

Table 3. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by educational attainment, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2004

(Numbers in thousands)

Educational attainment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate ¹		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older	140,876	75,893	64,983	7,837	3,801	4,036	5.6	5.0	6.2
Less than a high school diploma	16,017	10,032	5,985	2,427	1,339	1,088	15.2	13.3	18.2
Less than 1 year of high school	5,052	3,486	1,566	844	560	284	16.7	16.1	18.1
1-3 years of high school	9,240	5,471	3,768	1,370	673	698	14.8	12.3	18.5
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,726	1,074	652	213	106	107	12.3	9.8	16.4
High school graduates, no college ²	42,947	24,155	18,793	2,796	1,383	1,413	6.5	5.7	7.5
Some college or associate degree	40,588	19,824	20,764	1,901	728	1,173	4.7	3.7	5.7
Some college, no degree	27,372	13,702	13,670	1,497	575	922	5.5	4.2	6.7
Associate degree	13,216	6,122	7,094	404	153	252	3.1	2.5	3.5
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	41,324	21,883	19,441	713	351	362	1.7	1.6	1.9
White, 16 years and older	115,606	63,346	52,260	5,613	2,890	2,723	4.9	4.6	5.2
Less than a high school diploma	12,969	8,410	4,559	1,791	1,071	721	13.8	12.7	15.8
Less than 1 year of high school	4,373	3,093	1,281	728	496	232	16.6	16.0	18.1
1-3 years of high school	7,313	4,456	2,857	937	491	445	12.8	11.0	15.6
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,283	862	422	127	83	44	9.9	9.6	10.4
High school graduates, no college ²	34,924	19,867	15,057	1,942	1,010	932	5.6	5.1	6.2
Some college or associate degree	33,360	16,614	16,745	1,359	558	802	4.1	3.4	4.8
Some college, no degree	22,290	11,406	10,885	1,059	445	614	4.8	3.9	5.6
Associate degree	11,069	5,209	5,861	300	112	188	2.7	2.2	3.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	34,353	18,455	15,898	520	252	268	1.5	1.4	1.7
Black or African American, 16 years and older	15,829	7,407	8,422	1,675	626	1,049	10.6	8.5	12.5
Less than a high school diploma	2,017	1,053	963	490	186	304	24.3	17.7	31.6
Less than 1 year of high school	304	174	129	56	25	32	18.5	14.1	24.6
1-3 years of high school	1,402	724	678	360	143	217	25.7	19.7	32.1
4 years of high school, no diploma	311	155	157	74	19	55	23.8	12.2	35.4
High school graduates, no college ²	5,864	3,048	2,816	699	287	412	11.9	9.4	14.6
Some college or associate degree	4,835	2,028	2,807	385	103	282	8.0	5.1	10.0
Some college, no degree	3,457	1,468	1,989	308	76	232	8.9	5.2	11.7
Associate degree	1,378	560	818	77	28	50	5.6	4.9	6.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	3,113	1,277	1,836	100	50	50	3.2	3.9	2.7
Asian, 16 years and older	6,070	3,307	2,763	266	154	112	4.4	4.7	4.1
Less than a high school diploma	501	239	261	50	28	22	10.0	11.5	8.5
Less than 1 year of high school	225	115	109	24	16	8	10.8	14.2	7.2
1-3 years of high school	205	97	107	19	9	10	9.4	9.4	9.4
4 years of high school, no diploma	71	27	44	6	2	4	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)
High school graduates, no college ²	1,154	651	503	62	38	24	5.3	5.8	4.7
Some college or associate degree	1,243	615	628	76	41	35	6.1	6.6	5.6
Some college, no degree	824	419	405	64	33	30	7.8	8.0	7.5
Associate degree	419	196	224	12	7	4	2.8	3.8	2.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	3,173	1,802	1,371	79	48	31	2.5	2.6	2.3
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older	18,296	11,175	7,121	1,935	1,157	778	10.6	10.4	10.9
Less than a high school diploma	6,606	4,503	2,103	1,170	731	439	17.7	16.2	20.9
Less than 1 year of high school	3,530	2,504	1,026	660	457	203	18.7	18.2	19.8
1-3 years of high school	2,537	1,627	909	437	227	210	17.2	14.0	23.1
4 years of high school, no diploma	540	372	168	73	47	26	13.4	12.5	15.5
High school graduates, no college ²	5,459	3,340	2,119	465	280	185	8.5	8.4	8.7
Some college or associate degree	4,045	2,114	1,931	234	115	119	5.8	5.4	6.2
Some college, no degree	2,968	1,574	1,394	178	92	86	6.0	5.9	6.2
Associate degree	1,077	540	537	55	22	33	5.1	4.2	6.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	2,186	1,218	968	66	32	35	3.0	2.6	3.6

¹ Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.

² Includes people with a high school diploma or equivalent.

³ Includes people with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁴ Data not shown where base is less than 80,000.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. In addition, people whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Also, see Note, table 1.

Table 4. **People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more who worked during the year: Poverty status by occupation of longest job held, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate ¹		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older ²	140,876	75,893	64,983	7,837	3,801	4,036	5.6	5.0	6.2
Management, professional, and related occupations	47,304	23,376	23,928	903	437	466	1.9	1.9	1.9
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	19,686	11,212	8,473	361	231	130	1.8	2.1	1.5
Professional and related occupations	27,618	12,164	15,454	542	206	336	2.0	1.7	2.2
Service occupations	21,404	9,217	12,188	2,390	739	1,651	11.2	8.0	13.5
Sales and office occupations	34,280	12,738	21,542	1,656	546	1,110	4.8	4.3	5.2
Sales and related occupations	15,395	8,144	7,251	910	350	560	5.9	4.3	7.7
Office and administrative support occupations	18,885	4,595	14,291	745	195	550	3.9	4.3	3.8
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	15,145	14,477	668	1,105	1,028	77	7.3	7.1	11.5
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	937	731	206	137	99	37	14.6	13.6	18.1
Construction and extraction occupations	8,979	8,731	248	744	715	29	8.3	8.2	11.6
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	5,229	5,016	213	224	214	11	4.3	4.3	4.9
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	18,227	14,134	4,093	1,115	790	324	6.1	5.6	7.9
Production occupations	9,726	6,865	2,860	564	361	203	5.8	5.3	7.1
Transportation and material moving occupations	8,501	7,268	1,233	551	429	121	6.5	5.9	9.8
White, 16 years and older ²	115,606	63,346	52,260	5,613	2,890	2,723	4.9	4.6	5.2
Management, professional, and related occupations	39,909	20,062	19,847	691	361	330	1.7	1.8	1.7
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	17,039	9,998	7,041	303	209	94	1.8	2.1	1.3
Professional and related occupations	22,869	10,064	12,806	388	152	236	1.7	1.5	1.8
Service occupations	16,363	7,122	9,241	1,600	517	1,083	9.8	7.3	11.7
Sales and office occupations	28,178	10,605	17,572	1,123	379	744	4.0	3.6	4.2
Sales and related occupations	12,994	7,017	5,977	642	247	395	4.9	3.5	6.6
Office and administrative support occupations	15,184	3,589	11,595	481	132	349	3.2	3.7	3.0
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	13,310	12,760	550	939	874	65	7.1	6.9	11.8
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	823	647	176	127	94	33	15.5	14.5	19.0
Construction and extraction occupations	7,969	7,751	218	612	590	22	7.7	7.6	10.1
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,519	4,362	156	200	191	9	4.4	4.4	5.9
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	14,349	11,294	3,055	836	600	236	5.8	5.3	7.7
Production occupations	7,661	5,559	2,102	424	280	144	5.5	5.0	6.8
Transportation and material moving occupations	6,688	5,734	954	412	320	93	6.2	5.6	9.7
Black or African American, 16 years and older ²	15,829	7,407	8,422	1,675	626	1,049	10.6	8.5	12.5
Management, professional, and related occupations	3,838	1,354	2,484	142	39	103	3.7	2.9	4.1
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,427	541	886	50	16	34	3.5	2.9	3.8
Professional and related occupations	2,412	813	1,599	92	23	69	3.8	2.9	4.3
Service occupations	3,512	1,396	2,115	612	147	465	17.4	10.6	22.0
Sales and office occupations	3,922	1,267	2,655	411	126	285	10.5	10.0	10.7
Sales and related occupations	1,393	588	805	216	75	141	15.5	12.8	17.5
Office and administrative support occupations	2,529	679	1,850	195	51	143	7.7	7.5	7.8
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	1,111	1,036	75	85	79	6	7.6	7.6	(³)
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	62	43	19	8	4	4	(³)	(³)	(³)
Construction and extraction occupations	643	624	19	67	66	2	10.5	10.5	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	407	369	38	9	9	1	2.3	2.4	(³)
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	2,741	2,038	703	221	151	70	8.1	7.4	9.9
Production occupations	1,320	836	484	99	52	47	7.5	6.2	9.8
Transportation and material moving occupations	1,421	1,202	219	121	99	22	8.5	8.3	10.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. **People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more who worked during the year: Poverty status by occupation of longest job held, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2004 — Continued**

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate ¹		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Asian, 16 years and older ²	6,070	3,307	2,763	266	154	112	4.4	4.7	4.1
Management, professional, and related occupations	2,645	1,515	1,130	42	28	14	1.6	1.9	1.2
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	882	494	388	5	3	2	.6	.7	.5
Professional and related occupations	1,763	1,021	742	37	25	12	2.1	2.4	1.6
Service occupations	891	406	484	92	50	42	10.3	12.3	8.6
Sales and office occupations	1,394	606	788	64	27	37	4.6	4.5	4.6
Sales and related occupations	691	388	304	31	20	10	4.5	5.2	3.5
Office and administrative support occupations	703	219	484	33	7	26	4.7	3.1	5.4
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	283	264	18	22	22	—	8.0	8.5	—
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	18	12	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Construction and extraction occupations	106	104	2	15	15	—	13.9	14.2	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	158	148	10	8	8	—	4.9	5.2	—
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	685	442	242	25	15	10	3.6	3.4	3.9
Production occupations	497	285	211	18	12	6	3.6	4.1	2.9
Transportation and material moving occupations	188	157	31	7	4	4	3.7	2.2	(³)
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older ²	18,296	11,175	7,121	1,935	1,157	778	10.6	10.4	10.9
Management, professional, and related occupations	3,024	1,502	1,522	89	51	39	3.0	3.4	2.5
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,277	703	574	44	30	15	3.5	4.2	2.6
Professional and related occupations	1,747	799	949	45	21	24	2.6	2.6	2.5
Service occupations	4,217	2,179	2,039	619	264	356	14.7	12.1	17.4
Sales and office occupations	3,693	1,478	2,214	294	125	169	8.0	8.4	7.6
Sales and related occupations	1,550	802	748	166	78	88	10.7	9.7	11.8
Office and administrative support occupations	2,143	676	1,467	128	47	81	6.0	6.9	5.5
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	3,325	3,169	156	471	439	33	14.2	13.8	20.9
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	425	334	91	85	60	26	20.1	17.8	28.4
Construction and extraction occupations	2,246	2,205	41	319	315	4	14.2	14.3	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	654	630	24	67	64	3	10.2	10.1	(³)
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	3,391	2,564	827	341	246	95	10.1	9.6	11.5
Production occupations	1,868	1,278	590	182	118	65	9.8	9.2	11.0
Transportation and material moving occupations	1,523	1,286	237	159	128	31	10.4	10.0	12.9

¹ Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more who worked during the year.

² Includes a small number of people whose last job was in the Armed Forces.

³ Data not shown where base is less than 80,000.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. In addition, people whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Also, see Note, table 1. Dash represents or rounds to zero

Table 5. Primary families: Poverty status, presence of related children, and work experience of family members in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2004

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total families	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Total primary families	64,063	59,784	4,279	6.7
With related children under 18 years	36,478	32,867	3,611	9.9
Without children	27,585	26,917	668	2.4
With one member in the labor force	27,386	23,760	3,626	13.2
With two or more members in the labor force	36,676	36,024	653	1.8
With two members	31,005	30,403	602	1.9
With three or more members	5,671	5,621	50	.9
Married-couple families	48,812	46,852	1,960	4.0
With related children under 18 years	26,559	25,002	1,556	5.9
Without children	22,253	21,850	403	1.8
With one member in the labor force	16,780	15,304	1,476	8.8
Husband	12,714	11,510	1,205	9.5
Wife	3,480	3,251	229	6.6
Relative	586	543	42	7.2
With two or more members in the labor force	32,032	31,548	484	1.5
With two members	27,295	26,844	452	1.7
With three or more members	4,736	4,704	32	.7
Families maintained by women	10,967	9,034	1,933	17.6
With related children under 18 years	7,587	5,824	1,762	23.2
Without children	3,380	3,209	171	5.0
With one member in the labor force	7,960	6,158	1,801	22.6
Householder	6,631	5,024	1,607	24.2
Relative	1,328	1,134	194	14.6
With two or more members in the labor force	3,007	2,876	132	4.4
Families maintained by men	4,284	3,898	386	9.0
With related children under 18 years	2,332	2,040	292	12.5
Without children	1,952	1,858	94	4.8
With one member in the labor force	2,646	2,298	349	13.2
Householder	2,223	1,935	288	12.9
Relative	423	362	61	14.4
With two or more members in the labor force	1,638	1,600	37	2.3

¹ Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.

NOTE: Data relate to primary families with at least one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more. Also, see Note, table 1.

Table 6. **People in families and unrelated individuals: Poverty status and work experience, 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and work experience	Total persons	In married-couple families				In families maintained by women			In families maintained by men			Unrelated individuals
		Husbands	Wives	Related children under 18	Other relatives	Householder	Related children under 18	Other relatives	Householder	Related children under 18	Other relatives	
TOTAL												
All people ¹	225,236	57,461	58,047	5,743	17,735	13,996	2,090	10,989	4,862	512	5,071	48,730
With labor force activity	154,785	45,537	37,235	2,183	11,940	10,156	656	6,929	3,866	157	3,437	32,688
1 to 26 weeks	13,909	1,464	3,450	1,373	2,505	816	420	941	182	91	352	2,314
27 weeks or more	140,876	44,073	33,785	810	9,435	9,340	236	5,988	3,684	67	3,085	30,373
With no labor force activity	70,451	11,924	20,812	3,560	5,796	3,839	1,434	4,060	995	355	1,634	16,042
At or above poverty level												
All people ¹	200,076	54,285	54,830	5,353	16,937	10,025	1,486	9,272	4,208	463	4,559	38,657
With labor force activity	144,399	43,705	36,326	2,118	11,688	7,923	521	6,343	3,492	147	3,244	28,893
1 to 26 weeks	11,360	1,305	3,180	1,327	2,431	306	324	754	126	83	286	1,239
27 weeks or more	133,039	42,401	33,146	791	9,257	7,617	196	5,590	3,366	65	2,957	27,653
With no labor force activity	55,677	10,580	18,504	3,235	5,250	2,102	965	2,929	716	316	1,316	9,764
Below poverty level												
All people ¹	25,160	3,176	3,217	390	798	3,971	604	1,717	653	49	512	10,073
With labor force activity	10,387	1,832	909	66	252	2,233	135	586	375	10	194	3,795
1 to 26 weeks	2,550	160	270	47	74	511	96	188	56	8	66	1,075
27 weeks or more	7,837	1,672	639	19	178	1,723	40	398	319	2	128	2,720
With no labor force activity	14,774	1,345	2,308	325	546	1,738	469	1,130	279	39	318	6,277
Rate ²												
All people ¹	11.2	5.5	5.5	6.8	4.5	28.4	28.9	15.6	13.4	9.6	10.1	20.7
With labor force activity	6.7	4.0	2.4	3.0	2.1	22.0	20.6	8.5	9.7	6.3	5.6	11.6
1 to 26 weeks	18.3	10.9	7.8	3.4	2.9	62.5	22.8	20.0	30.7	8.8	18.8	46.5
27 weeks or more	5.6	3.8	1.9	2.4	1.9	18.4	16.8	6.7	8.6	(³)	4.1	9.0
With no labor force activity	21.0	11.3	11.1	9.1	9.4	45.3	32.7	27.8	28.0	11.1	19.5	39.1

¹ Data on families include people in primary families and unrelated subfamilies.

² Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total.

³ Data not shown where base is less than 80,000.

NOTE: See Note, table 1.

Table 7. **Unrelated individuals in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by age, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and living arrangement, 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Age and sex				
Total unrelated individuals	30,373	27,653	2,720	9.0
16 to 19 years	584	360	224	38.3
20 to 24 years	4,297	3,473	823	19.2
25 to 64 years	24,057	22,430	1,627	6.8
65 years and older	1,436	1,389	46	3.2
Men	16,618	15,260	1,359	8.2
Women	13,755	12,394	1,361	9.9
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity				
White	24,645	22,565	2,081	8.4
Men	13,610	12,586	1,024	7.5
Women	11,035	9,979	1,056	9.6
Black or African American	3,927	3,470	456	11.6
Men	2,019	1,773	246	12.2
Women	1,907	1,697	210	11.0
Asian	967	882	85	8.8
Men	531	481	51	9.5
Women	436	401	35	8.0
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	3,620	3,245	375	10.4
Men	2,516	2,292	224	8.9
Women	1,104	953	151	13.6
Living arrangement				
Living alone	16,362	15,339	1,022	6.2
Living with others	14,012	12,314	1,698	12.1

¹ Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are

not presented for all races. In addition, people whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Also, see Note, table 1.

Table 8. **People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status and labor market problems of full-time wage and salary workers, 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and labor market problems	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Total, full-time wage and salary workers	109,219	105,437	3,782	3.5
No unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, or low earnings ²	90,741	90,009	732	.8
Unemployment only	5,598	5,174	424	7.6
Involuntary part-time employment only	2,324	2,269	55	2.4
Low earnings only	7,252	5,625	1,627	22.4
Unemployment and involuntary part-time employment	995	920	74	7.5
Unemployment and low earnings	1,314	787	527	40.1
Involuntary part-time employment and low earnings	682	461	221	32.4
Unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, and low earnings	312	190	122	39.1
Unemployment (alone or with other problems)	8,220	7,072	1,148	14.0
Involuntary part-time employment (alone or with other problems)	4,313	3,841	472	10.9
Low earnings (alone or with other problems)	9,560	7,063	2,497	26.1

¹ Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.

² The low-earnings threshold in 2004 was \$278.03 per week.
NOTE: See Note, table 1.